

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. An apparatus for monitoring alerts regarding the status of components in a computer, comprising:
  - at least one processor, said processor configured to receive a plurality of alerts, said alerts providing status information about different components in a computer; and
  - an alert module executing in said processor, said alert module configured to selectively disable the display of one or more of said alerts, said alert module further configured to record said status information associated with said disabled alerts in a storage medium.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said alert module contains a plurality of variables, some of said variables indicating whether each of said alerts is disabled or enabled.
3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said alert module records information about said enabled and disabled alerts in said storage medium.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a log module, said log module configured to store information about said enabled and disabled alerts.
5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said log module stores a name of said component associated with one of said alerts.
6. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said log module stores a recommended course of action associated with one of said alerts.
7. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a user interface, which directs the selection of said alerts by providing a description of said alerts.
8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said user interface is configured to enable said selected alerts in response to an enable command.

9. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said user interface is further configured to disable said selected alerts in response to a disable command.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said alerts are displayed in an alert notification window.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said alert notification window is configured to display the name of said component associated with one of said alerts.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said alert notification window is configured to display the recommended course of action associated with one of said alerts.

13. An apparatus for monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, comprising:

a first computer comprising a plurality of components, said first computer configured to generate a notification regarding the status of at least one of said components, said notification comprising a first code which contains data about said component, said first code having a first data length; and

a status module existing in a second computer, said status module configured to receive said notification from said first computer, said status module further configured to transform said notification into a user-friendly display message comprising a second data length, wherein said second data length is significantly greater than said first data length.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said first computer and said second computer are connected by a computer network.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein said computer network performs Simple Network Management Protocol transactions.

16. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said first code contains an index wherein said status module uses said index to identify said user-friendly display message.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein said index is predefined by a management information base.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said management information base associates information about said component with said index.

19. The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said status module uses said information about said component from said management information base to generate said user-friendly display message.

20. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said user-friendly display message provides a description of said notification.

21. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said user-friendly display message provides a recommended course of action for said notification.

22. An apparatus for monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, comprising:

a first computer comprising a plurality of components;

a management information base existing in a second computer, said management information base configured to associate a plurality of indexes with different operational parameters related to said components;

at least one alert, said alert providing information about a change in one of said operational parameters, said alert comprising said index which identifies at least one of said operational parameters;

an alert module existing in said second computer, said alert module configured to receive said alert from said first computer, said alert module further configured to access said management information base to transform said index into a user-friendly display message.

23. The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said index is a variable in said first management information base.

24. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said variable is compatible with a computer network which performs Simple Network Management Protocol transactions.

25. An apparatus for displaying a system management user interface, comprising:  
at least one computer, said computer comprising a plurality of components, said computer configured to generate a plurality of alerts, said alerts associated with status information of said plurality of components;

a display executing in a computer, said display configured to allow the selection of at least two of said alerts; and

an alert manager module executing in a computer, said alert manager module configured to disable the display of any combination of selected said alerts in response to a single command.

26. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said alert manager module is configured to enable the display of a combination of said alerts in response to a single command.

27. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said alerts are associated with the status of a plurality of components in a plurality of network servers.

28. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said display allows the selection of at least two alerts corresponding to at least two servers.

29. The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein one of said alerts relates to the status of central processing unit.

30. The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein one of said alerts relates to the status of a fan.

31. The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein one of said alerts relates to the status of a temperature sensor.

32. The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein one of said alerts relates to the status of a power supply.

33. The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein one of said alerts relates to the status of a fault isolation unit.

34. An apparatus for monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, comprising:

    a first and a second computer interconnected with a network, said first computer comprising a plurality of components;

    a first means for associating a plurality of indexes with different operational parameters related to said components, portions of said first means existing in said second computers;

    at least one alert, said alert providing information about a change in one of said operational parameters, said alert comprising said index which identifies at least one of said operational parameters;

    a second means existing in said second computer, said second means configured to receive said alert from said first computer, said second means further configured to access said first means to transform said index into a user-friendly display message.